



Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: Pilot project (2017) - Protecting Denali Birds - Window Strike Mitigation

PEPC Project Number: 72685

Description of Action (Project Description):

Window collisions are the second leading source of direct human-caused mortality of birds in the U.S. with an estimated 365-988 million birds or 2-9% of the U.S. population of birds killed annually by building collisions. Current research has also shown that the majority (99%) of these fatalities occur at low levels (~2 birds annually) at residences and other low-rise buildings. Currently, we don't know how many birds are injured or killed by colliding with windows in Denali and we haven't assessed what levels of mortality or injury to birds from colliding with windows would indicate a local problem; however, we must consider that any bird collision mortalities at Denali contribute to the continental problem.

We do know that birds are striking windows within the park including windows of the Mountain Vista shelter where at least 6 songbirds and one Northern Goshawk fatality were found, the Murie Science and Learning Center (MSLC) where 7 birds struck glass with 1 fatality in 2016, and the Denali Visitor Center (DVC) where birds are occasionally discovered dead below windows. While the park still needs to develop a better understanding of the local problem, we are proposing the park begin mitigating window strikes to proactively address the issue. We feel that given the scope of the problem nationally, the legal requirements of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and the mission of Denali to conserve wildlife and encourage our visitors to be good stewards of our planet, a precautionary principle-based approach is warranted.

Mitigating windows using various forms of adhesive tape or other treatments has proven highly effective in reducing bird strikes (<http://collisions.abcbirds.org/research>). We explored several different options of window adhesives that are designed to prevent or reduce bird collisions with windows. We are making recommendations for different buildings based on efficacy, cost, ease of application, aesthetics, and potential building benefits. We only considered options that were recommended and approved by the American Bird Conservancy's "Safe Glass" program, which has tested numerous options and evaluated bird-friendly building design techniques.

We would like to implement mitigation on the windows of the MSLC building that have had the most bird strikes observed by staff. These include the large windows in the visitor use area in the northwest corner of the building. Cost estimate for the 18 windows plus the demo window is about \$1,000. We would work with maintenance and MSLC staff to install. We recommend using white Collidescape on windows of the MSLC building as well as installing 3 different options (Collidescape, ABC Tape, and Feather Friendly) on one window in the main visitor area to showcase options for homeowners. Since most of the visitor base to Denali includes homeowners, this would provide a teachable opportunity to show visitors different options they could easily install in their own homes. We could provide a laminated handout for visitors to reference that provides more detailed information about the different options.

Project Locations:

Location

County: Denali Borough

State: AK

Categorical Exclusion Form - Pilot project (2017) - Protecting Denali Birds - Window Strike Mitigation - PEPC
ID: 72685

Mitigation(s):

- Use discretion with choices in windows. Try different treatments for efficacy. Report back to Compliance Team Meeting/DMT at the end of the season about success of treatments and future plans. Provide update about monitoring strategy at this time.

CE Citation: C.3 Routine maintenance and repairs to non-historic structures, facilities, utilities, grounds and trails.

CE Justification:

Decision: I find that the action fits within the categorical exclusion above. Therefore, I am categorically excluding the described project from further NEPA analysis. No extraordinary circumstances apply.

Signature

Superintendent:


Don Striker

Date:



Extraordinary Circumstances:

If implemented, would the proposal...	Yes/No	Notes
A. Have significant impacts on public health or safety?	No	
B. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas?	No	
C. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E))?	No	
D. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?	No	
E. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?	No	
F. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?	No	
G. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, as determined by either the bureau or office?	No	
H. Have significant impacts on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?	No	
I. Violate a federal, state, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?	No	
J. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EO 12898)?	No	
K. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 130007)?	No	
L. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?	No	

